INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

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GRADE LABELING REQUIREMENT IS HELD IN ABEYANCE

Administrator Brown Testifies at House Hearing He Will Consult Industry Representatives on Method of Handling Situation

Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown announced April 14 at a Congressional committee meeting, that he will confer with representative canners on how to handle a suspension of the grade labeling requirement of Maximum Price Regulation No. 306. It was evident from Mr. Brown's testimony, which was presented before a subcommittee of the Smith Committee, that he considers the grade labeling requirement in abeyance although no legal order so suspending the requirement has been issued.

Mr. Brown said that on April 10 he wrote the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Hampton P. Fulmer: "As I indicated to your Committee some weeks ago, I have requested that action by this office be held up, and I did so in the hope that the Congress itself would make a determination of this question. Specifically, I suggest that such legislation be instituted as will enable the Congress to declare its position on this program by as early a date as possible. I will hold the matter in abeyance for a time in the hope that you will take prompt action.

"If the Congress does not act in this matter," Mr. Brown told the subcommittee, "I will feel a responsibility upon my part then, a compelling responsibility, to definitely and finally determine the question." He continued with the statement: "We will take up with the industry just how we can handle the present situation pending a determination by Congress. I couldn't tell you just how, Mr. Chairman, we will work that, but we will bring the industry in and do our utmost to reach a satisfactory conclusion for the time being."

At the time the LETTER went to press, however, Administrator Brown had not acted to call canners into consultation nor had OPA issued an order suspending the grade labeling requirement of MPR No. 306.

Mr. Brown's testimony before the subcommittee was a complete statement of his connection with the grade labeling situation and showed that he has acquired a rather intimate knowledge of the problem from the standpoint of price control and from the standpoint of its practicability as a consumer aid in the purchase of canned foods.

He voiced again his uncertainty as to the legality of the regulation in view of the statutory requirement that no changes in business practice be instituted unless they are necessary to prevent circumvention or evasion of the Price Control Act. However, he said, his legal staff believes that OPA has the power to require grade labeling.

When questioned by the subcommittee's Chairman, Representative Peterson of Georgia, as to whether hearings on the regulation had been held with the industry prior to its issuance, as required by law, Mr. Brown replied: "Without knowing the facts, I would say from my knowledge of the procedure that such a hearing was held. * * * The statute says that industry councils shall be heard, and it has the qualifying phrase, 'in so far as practicable'. I wouldn't want to cling to that phrase as a reason for not having them. I think we should have them in every case."

In the present case, Mr. Brown said, he would rather have those in OPA who actually negotiated the matter testify on the question. Later, after reading the language of the Act to the subcommittee, Mr. Brown said he believed that, since ample time for industry consultation had been available, such consultation was necessary under the statute.

Administrator Brown further testified: "It is my judgment that if we can not otherwise reasonably effectuate price control of canned foods, it would be my duty under this statute to enforce grade labeling. The question of

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POST-WAR STUDIES AUTHORIZED AT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Can Salvage Action Is Taken; Ration Point Reward for Volunteer Cannery Help Proposed

The Board of Directors of the National Canners Association at its meeting on April 9 and 10, attended by members of the Administrative Council, Section chairmen, and Secretaries of State Canners Associations, heard extensive discussion of problems on production, distribution, prices, and manpower; approved operation of the Association under the tentative budget until the next meeting of the Board; authorized the appointment of two committees to study post-war problems; took action toward canner assistance in promoting tin can salvage; and authorized a request to the Office of Price Administration that women working in canning plants at the sacrifice of their usual home canning activity be issued additional food coupons as a reward for such service.

LAST WEEK'S INFORMATION LETTER furnished the report submitted at the meeting, by the Association's Division of Statistics on acreage of corn, peas, tomatoes and snap beans contracted to April 1, the schedule of purchase and resale prices announced by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the four major crops, and the address by President Lindsey at the opening of the meeting, and these are consequently omitted from the following account of other details of the conference.

One of the features of the Friday morning session was an address by the Honorable Richard M. Kleberg, Representative from Texas. Excerpts from this address are reproduced on page 7613 of this issue of the LETTER.

Can Marking, Case Requirements

Brig. Gen. Carl A. Hardigg of the Army Quartermaster Corps explained, at the morning session on April 9, the reasons for specifying permanent can markings and special casing and strapping requirements. "In some locations," he stated, "the supplies must be landed on open piers in tropical rains; they must be stored in inade-

(Continued on page 7613)

WAGE ADJUSTMENTS UNDER APRIL 8TH EXECUTIVE ORDER

Canners Advised to Continue Work on Applications Pending Decision Covering Procedure

By his "Hold-the-Line" order of April 8, 1943 (see INFORMATION LETTER for last week), the President restricted the authority of the War Labor Board and of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to approve general wage or salary adjustments.

Prior to the issuance of that order, the agencies administering the wage and salary program were authorized to grant general wage or salary increases in four instances. They could do so:

(1) To eliminate "substandards of living",
(2) To eliminate "maladjustments",
(3) To adjust "inequalities and gross inequities", and
(4) To aid in the "effective prosecution of the war."

In restricting the authority of the Board and of the Commissioner, however, the President provided that they may now authorize increases only in the first two instances. He stated that the agencies administering the wage and salary controls should authorize:

". . . no further increases in wages or salaries except such as are clearly necessary to correct substandards of living, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent such agencies from making such wage or salary readjustments as may be deemed appropriate and may not have heretofore been made to compensate, in accordance with the Little Steel Formula as heretofore defined by the National War Labor Board, for the rise in the cost of living between January 1, 1941, and May 1, 1942."

Accordingly, neither the Board nor the Commissioner can now rule on applications in which the basis for the adjustment is the elimination of "inequalities and gross inequities" or assistance in the "effective prosecution of the war." Where possible, therefore, canners should seek their wage or salary adjustments on the grounds of "substandards of living" or "maladjustments".

Despite the new restrictions on the authority of the Board and the Commissioner, it appears that Economic Stabilization Director Byrnes has the authority to grant adjustments designed to eliminate "inequalities and gross inequities", and to aid in the "effective prosecution of the war". He has general charge of the administration of the wage and salary program, and is authorized, under the new Executive Order, to exercise all powers and duties conferred on the President by the Second Price Control Act.

Although the procedure for having applications considered by Director Byrnes has not yet been outlined, it is possible that the matter will be clarified shortly. It may develop that some applications based on "inequalities" or "prosecution of the war" can be filed with the Board or the Commissioner in the same manner as before, to be passed by them directly up to Director Byrnes for action. If that proves to be impossible, some other procedure for submitting the matter to Director Byrnes may soon be announced.

Pending that announcement, it is suggested that canners continue the preparation of applications for such wage or salary adjustments as are necessary to insure full 1943 production. If any applications based on "inequalities" or assistance in the "prosecution of the war" are now ready for filing, they might be filed with WLB or the Commissioner, with the request that they be passed on to Director Byrnes for action. When additional information on the proper procedure is available, the Association will complete its preparation of a memorandum directed to State canners associations and to canner groups, outlining the most practical method for seeking administrative relief.

Food Packers Not Affected by Glass Inventory Restrictions

Canners of fresh fish, fresh shellfish, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, or products produced from fresh fruits or fresh vegetables are excluded from the restrictions contained in Supplementary Order L-103-a, issued April 13 by the War Production Board. The restrictions on commercial users are as follows:

"On and after April 18, 1943, no commercial user shall at any time accept, or have any supplier set aside for him, any quantity of any empty new glass container of any design and finish which will increase his inventory thereof to more than (1) two carloads or (2) the total amount of his reasonably anticipated requirements therefor for the next 60 days, whichever is greater."

The purpose of the order is to assure an equitable distribution of glass containers, particularly food containers, during the peak canning season this summer, by preventing excessive forward buying of glass jars, bottles, pails, jugs, and tumblers. Glass container demand is exceeding the ability of the glass industry to produce, WPB stated. The order expires on September 30, 1943.

Lend Your Fighting Dollars to Help Our Fighting Men!

ASPARAGUS WAGE RATES

Maximums Established for Harvesting Labor in California

In an order issued April 14 by the War Food Administration, maximum wage rates were established for work in connection with the harvesting of asparagus for canning and freezing in Sacramento, San Joaquin, Yolo, Solano and Contra Costa counties of California. Maximum wages specified are as follows:

Cutting and sledding from prime beds (not less than five or more than ten years old), $2.75 per hundred-weight for No. 1 white, and $3.25 per hundred-weight for No. 1 green; cutting and sledding from other than prime beds, $3.25 per hundred-weight for white and $3.75 per hundred-weight for green. These rates are based on packed out weight cut to seven-inch lengths and if workers are paid on a field box basis for cutting, the rates must be equivalent to the foregoing per hundred-weight rates.

For washing and boxing, the following maximum wage rates are established: 40 cents per hundred-weight for hand-rack washing and boxing of white asparagus; 55 cents per hundred-weight for hand racking and washing of green asparagus.

The order held that these wages are not substandard, and that no increases shall be made above the rates specified, without approval of the Food Administrator.

This is the first official determination of maximum wages made under the authority to stabilize wages and salaries of agricultural labor delegated to the Secretary of Agriculture by James F. Byrnes, Economic Stabilization Director, in his directive of November 30, 1942, and then vested in the Food Administrator on March 26.

Requests for increases above the specified maximum rates or appeals for relief from hardships resulting from the order can be submitted to the USDA Wage Board for California, at 2288 Fulton Street, Berkeley, Calif. The Wage Board will hold hearings upon such requests or appeals and then forward its findings and recommendations to the Food Administration for a decision.

CEILINGS SET FOR SPINACH, GRAPEFRUIT JUICE IN GLASS

OPA Announces Specific Dollars-Cents Maximum Prices for 1943

The 1943 pack of spinach was brought under specific dollars-and-cents maximum prices per-dozen-cans by the Office of Price Administration April 12, at levels in line with those which prevailed for the 1942 pack.

At the same time, OPA set specific dollars-and-cents maximum prices for grapefruit juice packed in glass. On January 22, OPA established ceiling prices for grapefruit juice in cans. The prices in the present amendment are on the same basis, adjusted for glass pack.

Announcement of the spinach prices was made to all spinach canners by the Association through a special bulletin, issued on April 12.

The price action for both products was accomplished through Amendment 7 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 306, text of which is as follows:

1. Section 1341.583(a)(2) is added to read as follows:

(2) The maximum prices for grapefruit juice packed in glass, for sales other than to the Government, shall be as follows:

(i) For 8-ounce glass jars, A or Fancy grade, forty-two and one-half cents, for C or Standard grade, forty cents, and for Off grade or Substandard, thirty-seven and one-half cents, less than the maximum price for the same grade and style of pack in No. 2 cans, in the same area.

(ii) For 16-ounce glass jars, seven and one-half cents more than the maximum price for the same grade and style of pack in No. 2 cans, in the same area.

(iii) For 46-ounce glass jars, seventeen and one-half cents more than the maximum price for the same grade and style of pack in No. 3 cylinder cans, in the same area.

2. Section 1341.553(b)(5) is added to read as follows:

Item	*Section*	*Appendix*
(5) Spinach	1341.584	B

3. Section 1341.584(e) is added to read as follows:

(e) Spinach

(1) The maximum prices per dozen containers, f.o.b., factory, shall be as follows:

Col. 1 Item No.	Col. 2 Grade	Col. 3 State or area	Col. 4 Container No. 2 Can	No. 2½ Can	No. 10 Can
1	A or Fancy	All	$1.175	$1.475	$5.15
2	B or Extra Standard	All	1.125	1.41	4.95
3	C or Standard	All	1.075	1.35	4.75
4	Below Standard	All	.925	1.16	4.10

Food Freezers Meet at Capital

Representatives of the frozen fruits, berries and vegetables industry were in Washington April 15 and 16, discussing the general provisions and the specific prices in the proposed maximum price regulation in that field, with officials of the Office of Price Administration.

Price Adjustment Procedure Set for Special Situations

Procedure under which the seller of any commodity who has been found by the Federal Trade Commission or a court to have discriminated illegally in prices between different purchasers may apply for adjustment of his maximum prices has been provided by the Office of Price Administration.

Under Supplementary Order No. 41, effective April 16, the seller may apply to the OPA office in Washington for adjustment of his ceilings if his case meets the following conditions:

(1) He has been found by the Federal Trade Commission or any court of competent jurisdiction to have discriminated in prices between different purchasers of commodities in violation of the provisions of the Robinson-Patman Act or of any statute prohibiting price discrimination and,

(2) that the elimination of the discrimination by lowering his price to the purchasers against whom he has discriminated would cause him substantial hardship; and

(3) that the elimination of the discrimination by raising his prices to the purchasers in whose favor he has discriminated is prohibited by the price regulation under which the sale is made.

The application must be filed under provisions of Revised Procedural Regulation No. 1.

OPA does not assert that a price regulation affords a seller immunity from proceedings under anti-price discrimination statues, it was pointed out.

If a seller has been found by the FTC or a court to have discriminated against different purchasers by reason of having granted discounts required or permitted under price regulations, he may now apply under the new order for OPA permission to change his maximum prices in such a way that the discrimination will be removed.

CHANGES MADE IN RATION ORDER NO. 13 PROVISIONS

Amendment Affects Sales, Exchanges Of Processed Foods As Well As Point-free Transfers

Several changes affecting processors, wholesalers, sales and transfer of processed foods and point-free transfers are covered in Amendment No. 14 to Ration Order 13 covering canned foods and effective April 14. These are as follows:

Section 3.2 (b) of Article III covering Processors is amended by eliminating from the original order the sentence "However, in reporting his production or imports of processed foods, a processor shall not include amounts which he used in grading the processed foods he produced or imported."

A new section is added to this article, as follows:

Sec. 3.9 Processors must account for differences between their transfers and the number of points given up to the Office of Price Administration.

(a) Every processor must attach to his monthly report on OPA Form R-1305, beginning with the report for March, 1943, a statement accounting for all differences between the point value of the processed foods sold or transferred by him during that month, and the number of points given up by him to the Office of Price Administration. Also, if he used any processed foods in grading the processed foods which he produced or imported, he must attach a statement showing how much he used. The statements must be signed by the same person who signed the monthly report.

To Article IX, covering Sales and Transfers of Processed Foods, is added a new Section, as follows:

Sec. 9.9. Points must be given up for imports of foods.

(a) Any person (other than persons importing processed foods in accordance with Section 10.10) who imports processed foods must give up points to the Collector of Customs (or his deputy) at or before the time the foods are released or delivered to him by the Collector.

(b) The Collector of Customs shall turn over each month, to the district (or, where there is none, the State) office for the area in which the point of entry is located, all points received by him in this way during the preceding month.

Article X, covering Point-Free Transfers, is amended in Section 10.10 by giving the details of the signed statement covering the transaction between a processor and a customs official.

RATION ORDER AMENDED

Establishes Procedure for Transfers of Red Stamp Points; Meat and Fish Affected

A new amendment, No. 8, to Ration Order 16 governing meats, fats, fish and cheese, sets forth the procedure to be followed in making transfers of points. Text of the amendment is as follows:

Section 10.5 (d) is amended to read as follows:

(d) *When points must be given up.*

(1) The transferor must get the points from the transferee, and the transferee must give them up, at or before the time when the transfer is made. Exceptions to this rule are stated in the next two subparagraphs.

(2) If the transfer is made through shipment by railroad or any other public carrier, the transferor may arrange to have the carrier get the points for him from the transferee at the time of actual delivery, or to have the points obtained for him by anyone in exchange for the bill of lading or other document entitling its holder to take possession of the foods.

(3) Where the transfer is made by delivery to the transferee (or by shipment by railroad or any other public carrier) the points may be given up later, but not more than seven days after delivery to the transferee. However, a transferee may not accept delivery in this case unless he has points on hand (excluding points not yet surrendered for foods bought or acquired) or in his ration bank account (excluding the amounts of ration checks issued which have not yet been cleared) equal to the point value of the foods transferred. If the transferor does not get the points at or before the time he sends the foods to the transferee, he must, at or before that time, prepare and keep a memorandum showing the name of the transferee, the date he sent the foods, a description of the items, their weight and their point value. If the transferor does not get the points within seven days after delivery, he must immediately notify the district office for the place where the delivery was made, of the default. As long as the transferee is in default, he must not acquire any foods covered by this order, and no transferor who has knowledge of the default may transfer such foods to him. (However, he may continue to acquire foods covered by this order, and transferors may continue to transfer such goods to him, pursuant to Article XI.)

This amendment shall become effective April 13, 1943.

Buy War Bonds Now!

WANTED AND FOR SALE

Machinery—Equipment

This column is open only to members of the Association who want to buy or sell canning machinery and equipment. Names of firms listing the items below will be furnished upon application to the Association. In requesting names, please identify items by number.

FOR SALE

196-S—Unscrambler for No. 2 cans; complete with gear head motor drive.

197-S—Vertical elevator for filled No. 2 cans, 20 feet long; complete with entrance and discharge boots.

198-S—Monel metal Crescent dish washer; complete with motor and trays.

199-S—Power hack saw; complete with single phase motor.

200-S—Can unscrambler for No. 2 or smaller cans.

201-S—Anderson vegetable dicer, Model No. 2, single pocket, equipped with ½-inch and ⅝-inch dies.

202-S—Anderson vegetable dicer, Model No. 2, double pocket, equipped with ½-inch and ⅝-inch dies.

203-S—Complete generating equipment: 11½ by 12-inch horizontal automatic steam engine; 56 by 9-inch flywheel with governor.

204-S—Complete control board and switches: 3-panel switchboard on angle iron frame.

205-S—Twelve D.C. motors; various sizes from ¼ to 7½ h.p.

206-S—Two 90 h.p. H.R.T. boilers (Northern California location).

207-S—One 250 h.p. watertube boiler (Northern California location).

208-S—Three Kyler boxers; two, 307 x 512, one 211 x 414.

209-S—Burt standard labeler, 307 x 512.

Gulf Shrimp Meetings Held

Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Deputy Coordinator, Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, and Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began a series of meetings on the problems of the Gulf Coast shrimp industry in New Orleans, April 15.

Following the New Orleans meeting, Mr. Jackson went to Biloxi, Miss., for conferences with representatives of the industry in that area. He expects also to include Morgan City, La., on his itinerary.

PRICING OF USED MACHINES

Amendment Establishes New Method For Second-Hand Parts Also

An alternative method by which a seller of a used machine or second-hand machine parts can determine his ceiling price is contained in Amendment No. 76 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 136, issued recently.

The older method of determining ceiling price was by use of the "flat ceiling" formula, that is, 85 per cent of the maximum price for the nearest new equivalent machine f.o.b. factory, for a reconditioned and guaranteed machine or part, or 55 per cent of the maximum price for the nearest new machine, for an "as is" or other machine not guaranteed nor rebuilt. Under the new amendment, the ceiling price for used machinery and second-hand machine parts may also be determined by using the same "new base price"—that is, the maximum price for the nearest equivalent new machine—and reducing it by the depreciation rate listed in a table now contained in the regulation from the date of acquisition when new to the date of sale.

When sellers use the depreciation rate method, they are required to furnish the buyer with a signed statement showing the name and address of the person who bought the machine when new, and the date of the sale.

Items not listed in the depreciation rate tables cannot be priced by that method and their maximums must be determined by the "flat ceiling" method only. Depreciation rates, however, are provided for most types of machines, and in the main they are based on rates prescribed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, although some departures have been made to adjust the rates to reflect more accurately the heavy wear and tear imposed on some types of machines under existing conditions. A few rates have been decreased as an incentive to restore to the market older models of certain critically needed machines. Under no circumstances, however, can an "as is" machine, or any machine not guaranteed, be sold under this method for more than 80 per cent of the base price.

Navy Returns Sardine Boats

The return of five additional vessels to the California sardine fleet has been arranged by the Navy through the War Shipping Administration, the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries has announced. The return of four other vessels for this fleet had been announced previously.

Canners May Render Assistance in USDA Home Canning Campaign By Stressing Importance of Safe Food Sterilization Processes

On page 7551 of the INFORMATION LETTER for March 13, the Association published an article calling the attention of the industry to some constructive work being done by national advertisers of canned foods. Advertisements, which have appeared recently, urge the growing of Victory gardens, the home-canning of food products for which housewives have the necessary equipment, and caution them regarding the procedure necessary in the canning of non-acid foods.

In this connection attention is called to the following portion of a press release issued on this subject by the Department of Agriculture, through the Office of War Information, on April 7:

The U. S. Department of Agriculture said today that the use of the steam pressure canner is the only method it can recommend for the canning of certain types of vegetables. In response to numerous requests by individuals and agencies interested in the canning of Victory Garden products, the Department made it clear that it can recommend only methods considered universally safe, since its published material is used in all parts of the United States.

Certain spoilage organisms, as well as the spores of Bacillus botulinum, are not readily killed by boiling temperatures in non-acid products, but are destroyed by the high temperature developed in a pressure cooker correctly used. If botulinum spores are present in a non-acid food and are not destroyed, they may grow and generate a fatal poison, or toxin.

The non-acid foods include such vegetables as beans, peas, corn, spinach, other greens, and asparagus, as well as meat. It is for these products that the Department recommends the use of a steam pressure canner. In acid products such as fruits and tomatoes, rhubarb, and pickled beets, on the other hand, botulinum spores are made harmless or destroyed by boiling temperatures, and these foods can be safely canned by the boiling water-bath method.

Home-canned non-acid vegetables processed by the boiling water-bath method can contain botulinus toxin even if there are no signs of spoilage. To be safe, such products should be brought to a boil and boiled for at least ten minutes after the can or jar is emptied before they are eaten or even tasted. Boiling for a full ten minutes or more will destroy the toxin, though not the botulinum spores. It is the toxin, not the organism itself, that is harmful.

Any non-acid canned foods that show evident signs of spoilage should of course not be tasted or eaten at all.

The Department emphasized that every safe and efficient method of preserving foods at home should be used as fully as available equipment permits this year. Individually owned as well as community pressure cookers can be shared to keep them operating at capacity during the canning season. Large quantities of fruits and tomatoes can be put up by the boiling water-bath method. Dehydrating, krauting, brining, pickling, and freezing, can be used to advantage with many products. Root crops, winter cabbage, pumpkins, winter squash, and other products can be stored when suitable facilities are available.

Members of the canning industry can render a great service if they will assist in this campaign to increase food production and preservation, and will do all they can to educate housewives in their locality, individually or collectively, on the importance of adequate sterilization processes, particularly for non-acid foods. Pooling of necessary canning equipment, the supply of which is limited by the present emergency, should be encouraged as far as practicable.

While it is true that most of the outbreaks of botulism from home-canned foods have occurred in the western part of the United States, there have been a number of serious outbreaks in the Eastern States, and the use of pressure cookers in canning *all* foods, except fruits, rhubarb and tomatoes, should be strongly urged. Any intelligent housewife will realize, if the matter is clearly and frankly presented to her, that it is far "better to be safe than sorry."

Directions for home canning, including safe processes, are well covered in Farmers' Bulletin 1762 of the USDA, which can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for ten cents a copy.

Nation Wide Concentration of Industries Is Not Now in Prospect

WPB Chairman Nelson Denies Reports, Pointing to Difficulties of Individual Programs

Published reports that the War Production Board is proceeding upon a nationwide plan for concentration of industry were denied April 14 by Chairman Donald M. Nelson.

The reports, Mr. Nelson said, apparently were based upon two confidential memoranda circulated to the WPB Committee on Concentration of Production, one dated November 19, 1942, and the second January 19, 1943. The list of industries carried in the stories was contained in the 1943 report to this Committee which went out of existence some three months ago, and does not in any sense constitute a list of industries for which WPB is now considering a concentration program, he stated.

"The industries listed are those in which some study of concentration has been made. It is not a list for which concentration is particularly practical or desirable, and it does not include many industries in which concentration probably would be helpful. It is merely a preliminary, incomplete study which was made last year and which is today a dead pigeon," he continued.

"The War Production Board has made a continuous study of concentration since its inception. The one inescapable conclusion from that study is that no formula or general plan for the concentration of a great number of industries is possible.

"Each industry poses a particular problem, which is, in turn, closely related to other industries and other problems. If it were possible to fence off a particular industry and close our eyes to the effects upon other industries, a degree of concentration would be possible without undue difficulty.

"Or if industry were static it would be possible to work out plans for a number of lines of production which would accomplish the desirable ends of concentration, namely, savings in manpower, transportation, fuel and the like. But the greatest single task of the War Production Board is to keep our production lines fluid. We must be able to change almost overnight the kinds and quantities of the weapons we deliver to our warriors and our Allies to meet the changing demands of war. Any concentration plan made three months ago would of necessity be out of date today."

Mr. Nelson said that a new committee may be appointed to make a fresh start on concentration studies, to determine finally whether under present circumstances concentration is feasible or desirable—and in what fields.

"If we appear to be making haste slowly in this important field," he said, "it is because we do not want to disrupt the pattern of American industry without gaining corresponding benefits. We must be sure that the savings derived are important enough to offset the damage to individuals and businesses. When we can see that balance achieved in a particular field, concentration will result."

Women's Land Army Is Being Recruited for Help on Farms

Plans for recruiting and placing, as a part of the U. S. Crop Corps, a Women's Land Army of about 60,000 city and town women to help meet the labor shortage on farms were announced recently by the War Food Administration in the Department of Agriculture. This will be a part of the total job of enrolling in the U. S. Crop Corps an additional 3,500,000 workers this season, including transported farm workers, businessmen, and high school youth of the Victory Farm Volunteers.

Miss Florence Hall has been appointed to head the Women's Land Army activities of the Department. She has been extension field agent working in the twelve northeastern States since 1928.

In all, it is expected that about 360,000 women will be enrolled for farm work as soon as arrangements are completed for placing them. The plans call for recruiting, in cooperation with local offices of the U. S. Employment Service, local Civilian Defense Councils, and women's organizations, about 300,000 women who will be placed by county agricultural agents for short-time emergency jobs on farms —women who can spare week ends, a few days, or a few weeks to give to the job of producing and harvesting food to win the war.

Of the 60,000 women in the Women's Land Army, about 10,000 are expected to enroll for year-round farm work and about 50,000 for seasonal work for one month or more.

Supervision of the Women's Land Army will be under the Cooperative Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and State agricultural colleges. County agents will place the workers, help them to become adjusted to farm work, give necessary supervision, and help farmers to train the new workers in farming skills. Recruitment will be carried on in cooperation with public, State and Federal agencies, and with interested voluntary organizations of all kinds. Agricultural representatives of women's organizations will provide lists of prospective workers to county agents for possible placement on farms. The Extension Service of each State will review applications and select the workers needed to meet the farm-labor requirements.

Corrections in Order M-104

The following corrections should be made in the text of Schedule I of Conservation Order M-104, as published in the INFORMATION LETTER for April 10, on pages 7597 to 7599. (As stated in that issue, in the introduction to Schedule I, wherever the asterisk appears, the packing quota relates to the total number of closures and cans used for packing the applicable product):

We've Got to Buy More Bonds!

Miss Black Making Field Trip

Marjorie H. Black, of the Association's Home Economics Division, leaves April 18 for a field trip which will take her to Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. She will talk to school groups, women's clubs, service clubs, Red Cross nutrition classes, will contact food editors of newspapers, and be a guest on several radio programs. Miss Black's topic will be "Today's War-time Canned Foods" and she will emphasize the need for labor in the canning industry.

Her itinerary includes the following cities: Indianapolis, Richmond, and Terre Haute, Indiana; Springfield, Bloomington, Peoria, Moline, Rock Island, Rockford, and Aurora, Illinois; Ames, Marshalltown, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Davenport, Iowa.

Fish Net Facilities Reserved

The entire facilities of all fish netting manufacturers have been ordered devoted exclusively to the manufacture of camouflage nets and fish netting for domestic (commercial) fishing and Lend-lease purposes by the War Production Board.

The order also assigns an A-2 rating for seine twine and other yarn to be incorporated into commercial fish netting. This yarn will not otherwise be procurable.

Product	1943 packing quota	Closure material indicated by X		
		Tinplate	Black-plate	Rubber
VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS				
2. Beans, with or without pork	50% 1941*	X	.....	X
MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS				
49. Scrapple, Philadelphia	50% 1942*	X	.....	.....
50. Tamales	100% 1941*	X	.....	X
51. Meat products as follows:				
* * *				
E. Sausage in casings, Vienna style, containing no cereal or similar substance and not to exceed 10 per cent added water, by weight	Unlimited	X	.....	X
MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS				
66. Fluid milk, with or without flavoring. Quota: Until 9/30/43 100 per cent of corresponding period of 1941	See product column	.....	X	.....
67. Ice cream mix, dry. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (d) (4) of Order M-104, packing quota includes pack required to be set aside by any order of the War Production Board, the Food Distribution Administrator, the Department of Agriculture for purchase by Government agencies	50% 1942*	X	.....	X
SYRUPS AND HONEY				
70. Chocolate or cocoa syrups	Unlimited	X	.....	X
MISCELLANEOUS FOODS				
82. Baby foods	125% 1942*	X	.....	X
Formulas dry or liquid	125% 1942*	.....	X	.....
83. Cherries, maraschino	100% 1942*	.....	X	.....
91. Spice and seasoning	100% 1942	X	.....	.....

Excerpts From Address By Congressman Kleberg

The impact of Government today has reached a point, due to the distressed times, from which I believe thoughtful Americans can derive considerable optimism—justifiable optimism. Through our history in the past we have run into tough spots like this before, and it looks like all the way through the years that we have existed since our nation was founded, things had to get just so bad before they began to get better. I believe we have just about reached that peak.

* * *

Today we are confronted with the question as to which is the most important, the formulation of legislation, its enactment into law, or its application, administration and execution in its impact upon the people. We are operating under many laws today which have not given heed to the well-thought-out original charter, the Constitution of the United States. That is the cause of a lot of the confusion. In the regulations under which these laws are written we find a wider departure from that original document.

* * *

The armed forces of this country have as their first objective to keep and make permanent the American way of life, to ensure that it shall not be destroyed by forces from abroad. And in the Congress of the United States we have a job—to preserve it in this country. The home front is our battle field.

* * *

People who have lived under the iron hand of a dictator—it never occurs to them to speak their minds; never occurs to them to even disagree, even though they may feel that things are going wrong. But in this country, every man has a mind of his own, every one has a mouth through which that priceless thing known as free speech comes forth. And among these elements that come to those who are individualists, through various ways and by national characteristics, is the one of going off half-cocked. It afflicts people in high places just as it afflicts people in low places. But we are becoming awake to the deeper gravity of the situation; even those people who were most intolerant are beginning to recognize that, and are beginning to tone down their pronunciamentos and intolerance of their views. Pride of authorship is even undergoing a decline.

Men find that they are going off half-cocked, and this is a good sign. Men in Government recently dealing with matters in which you gentlemen were vitally interested—grade labeling—at one time not so far past had come to definite conclusions without discussing the matter, that it was essential and that they were going to require it. You have seen a change in that attitude which is hopeful.

* * *

I want at this juncture to tell you frankly that I was greatly pleased, as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, to hear both sides of the labeling question reasonably well aired, even in too limited time. The importance of the two branches of Government has no bearing except to call attention to one particular thing—there never was a time in the history of this country when the exercise of prudent jealousies concerning the rights of Americans was quite so important. Let me add another adjective—prudent and tolerant jealousies. This is no time to cuss a man out and make him mad; this is no time to indulge in practices which we have recently been using in a wild and unrestrained manner. This is no time to appeal to prejudices; this is a time when the best reasoning in this nation is called upon to give expression and take action upon the problems we have.

* * *

It will be well today to remember that practical regulations to govern the various highly advanced industries and lines of endeavor of our people can be expected to come only from the minds of those who are acquainted with these industries by having been tested on the ground themselves. Let's not be too hard about this thing; let's remember that a lot of boys without such experience have been making mistakes pretty rapidly. Too high a value has been set on pride of authorship in regulations and plans. A lot has been said about changing horses in midstream, but nobody has ever considered that sometimes streams change.

* * *

When I talk to you gentlemen of the troubles that you have—and there will be troubles tomorrow as there are today—remember that the American way of doing this job is to come up to the Congress of the United States, where under the Constitution your views are entitled to be heard in the halls of state. Discuss the matter with those who represent you there, and with them take up discussion with an equally responsible executive branch of government, a branch of government just as determined and devoted to do its duty as we are. But we have become divided; we have reached a point where it is difficult for the legislative and executive branches to discuss things on an even keel of mutual understanding.

* * *

In the field of canning there is no man so ignorant as not to recognize its importance to the war effort. There is no man so dumb and so dense that he does not know that every impediment thrown in the way of the operation of this great industry to its fullest productive capacity means disruption to the war effort. I believe that fact is not going to escape the attention of any man in Government. We may have to call it to the attention of some here and there, but I do not believe that it is going to withstand the common sense produced under a free man's government and under a government where free enterprise has enabled us to produce the materials, ammunition, and food necessary to the maintenance of American rights.

POST-WAR STUDIES AUTHORIZED AT DIRECTORS' MEETING

(Continued from page 7607)

quate warehouses or in the open—under canvas—when that is available."

"We have heard rumors," he continued, "that the canners are worried about this year's pack being interfered with by the supplies now stored in the canners' warehouses for the Army. As you know, the Army has followed the usual commercial practice of storing a considerable portion of its canned foods in the canners' warehouses until the canner requires the space for his new pack. This was provided for in the contract, and, we believe, was understood by everyone. We are now starting to move the supplies, well ahead of the final storage dates allowed in the contracts, in order to reassure canners and to make certain there is no interference with this year's pack. You will appreciate that if the Army had not taken advantage of this method of storage, it would have been necessary for it to have built many additional warehouses for the storing of canned foods or to have congested the commercial warehouses in the larger cities."

General Hardigg stated that without the "magnificent record you established for production in 1942", neither the Army nor the American people would have been as well fed as they have been this year. He hoped for a solution of manpower and other problems that would permit an equally impressive performance in 1943.

Explanation of Surplus Supplies

J. Howard Hamilton, Consultant for the Secretary of War, explained the reasons back of the 12,000,000-case surplus of canned foods which is being turned over by the Army to the Food Distribution Administration. During the 1942 season, he stated, the Army needed a lot of merchandise in a hurry.

Consequently, channels were filled with merchandise from the earliest producing sections. Later, the Office of Defense Transportation demanded that Army purchases on the West Coast be shipped over the mountains before winter set in, which accounted for the piling up of government goods in midwestern cannery warehouses. These two situations worked a hardship on midwest canners, with the result that today they have more merchandise in their warehouses than is desirable.

Furthermore, Mr. Hamilton reminded his audience that the Army bought for Lend-lease, as well as for Navy, Marine Corps, Veterans Administration, and other agencies, and for these reasons its estimates included a cushion. This cushion, plus the unexpectedly large size of the 1942 pack, of which the Army took stated percentages, resulted in the surplus.

The Army has requested FDA to issue necessary shipping instructions to clear the decks, he stated.

The Office of the Quartermaster General is suggesting to FDA one more change in the reservation percentages, which Mr. Hamilton assured the canners will not be a radical revision.

The Friday luncheon session was featured by the addresses of the Honorable Walter F. George, Senator from Georgia (which will be published in next week's LETTER), and the Honorable Clyde L. Herring, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Price Administration.

Future Policy of OPA

Mr. Herring, in opening his remarks, stated that he had no announcement to make regarding grade labeling, since that decision is now solely in the hands of Administrator Prentiss W. Brown.

With regard to new OPA policy, however, Mr. Herring stated that in the future the practice will be to obtain the cooperation of all the American people and to invite members and representatives of industry to sit in with the agency before regulations are issued—not afterwards.

"Many of these regulations have been written without the careful consideration of men in the industries affected," he asserted. Price regulation in Canada, he stated, is brought about through the functioning of men experienced in the industry that is being regulated, and it is that procedure to which Mr. Brown seems committed. "He wants to cooperate, and he wants your cooperation," Mr. Herring said.

"We don't want to go out with a club in one hand to tell the American people they have to conserve. We prefer to tell them what we are trying to do. We want to enlist the support of the American people, who are really fighting and winning this war."

Tin Salvage Program

Assistance of canners in promoting the salvage of tin was requested by A. Elwell Crissey of the Tin Can Salvage Unit of the War Production Board, who described the critical tin situation and suggested the appointment of a committee representing canners and label manufacturers to confer with the Salvage Division of the WPB. One suggestion for promoting salvage of tin is the use of an appropriate design or slogan on canned food labels that would enlist the cooperation of consumers in saving tin cans.

It was agreed that the subject should be referred to the Association's Labeling Committee, and Chairman Cosgrove of that committee later indicated its approval of the label proposal. A similar plan already had been endorsed by the label manufacturers association, and it is suggested that canners take the matter up with their label suppliers. Some national advertisers of canned products are cooperating in the tin salvage campaign by including, in their advertising copy, appeals to consumers to save tin cans and participate fully in the salvage campaign.

New N.C.A. Committees Named

The personnel of the two committees, appointment of which was authorized by the Board of Directors to consider post-war problems, is as follows:

Post-War Planning Committee—Harry L. Cannon, Marc C. Hutchison, E. N. Richmond, Henry P. Taylor, Douglas C. Townson, Elvon Musick, M. C. Peters.

Committee on Distribution of War Surpluses—Carl N. Lovegren, G. Sherwin Haxton, E. F. Trego, Fred A. Stare, Harold K. Bachelder.

Food Production Panel

The panel discussion on food production opened with an address by J. B. Hutson, Deputy Director of the Food Production Administration, giving an over-all picture of the present prospects for field, truck, and canning crops, milk, meat, etc. He expressed the opinion that we may have to change our eating habits, eat food to which we have not been accustomed, but that there will be available sufficient food for an adequate diet.

Following this address there was distributed the list of resale prices established by the Commodity Credit Corporation for corn, peas, tomatoes, and green and wax beans for canning, which were published in last week's INFORMATION LETTER. Members of the panel then responded to questions from the floor regarding support prices, method of certification, etc. Among points brought out in the discussion were:

Accounting for raw products under the purchase and resale plans will take place at the end of the season.

Canners who are also growers qualify automatically for certification.

Canners who purchase products on the open market must pay the same prices for spot products as are required for contracts in order to be eligible for certification.

Where a product is packed on a two-season basis, settlement will be made at end of each season.

Details of the purchase and resale operation will be covered by the terms of the contract to be entered into between the canner and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Food Distribution Panel

At the opening of the food distribution panel discussion, Roy F. Hendrickson, Director of the Food Distribution Administration, expressed his appreciation of the cooperation given by canners in working out the various problems and stated that FDA would give the industry whatever help it is in position to furnish.

Most of the discussions developed around questions concerning movement of last year's packs from warehouses, basis of the regional prices for raw products, and disposition of goods that have been released by the Army.

Assurances were given that goods from the 1943 pack now in canners' warehouses would be moved in time to prevent interference with this year's operations. It is hoped to have peas moved out by May 15.

Of the 14,000,000 cases of goods now held by the Department of Agriculture, 2,000,000 cases are Lend-lease, and 12,000,000 are goods the contracts for which were turned over to the Department by the Army. The latter will be held in public warehouses for 60 to 90 days until a better idea is gained of the prospective 1943 production.

Present plans for disposition of these goods contemplate that canners from

whom they were purchased will be asked to make offers for them. If these offers are acceptable, the goods will be sold to them. If not, these canners will be advised what offers will be acceptable. If the original vendors do not buy back the goods they will be offered to other canners or to brokers and distributors. Representatives of FDA stated they would be glad to have canners' ideas on this plan.

Questions about the Department's policy on support prices to meet the impact of the ending of the war, led to the suggestion by Mr. Hendrickson that the industry should give serious study to this problem, as well as to the problem of distribution of surpluses that may be on hand when the war ends. The Board authorized the President of the Association to appoint a Committee on Post-War Planning and a Committee on Distribution of War Surpluses.

Panel on Pricing

At the outset of the Saturday morning panel-discussion of prices it was announced by OPA Chairman A. C. Hoffman that the meeting was open to all questions on the canned foods pricing program except grade labeling. That topic would not be discussed, Mr. Hoffman stated, because final decision still rests solely with Price Administrator Brown.

Pending an interpretation, OPA officials were not certain as to what might be the effect on the price program of the President's wage and ceiling freeze order of April 8. They indicated they would attempt to obtain a firm statement for guidance in future price relations with the industry.

It was indicated that OPA desired to make minor adjustments in cases where real inequities had been created by the price orders thus far issued for 1943 packs, and would welcome, and, in fact, is initiating meetings with canners to discuss the workability of the regulations or the need for minor changes. It was stated that the price ceilings are subject to review right up until the time canning and selling begins. Meetings were held the day before the Director's meeting, with canners representing pea, tomato, bean and corn canning industries. In connection with price orders still to come, as well as the consideration of adjustments of those already issued, the following program was announced by the OPA men at the meeting, subject to possible changes that might ensue as a result of the wage-freeze order:

Tomatoes: Minor adjustments will be made; cost data requires supplementing.

Peas: The glass-pack prices in the pea schedule are not correct; OPA men told the canners to disregard them.

Beans: May require slight adjustment.

Spinach and grapefruit juice in glass: (These price schedules are published on page 7609 of this issue.)

Carrots, lima beans, beets in glass: Expected to be issued about April 17-19.

Cabbage for kraut, pumpkin, squash: Price regulation to be issued during the week ending April 24.

Tomato products: Tomato juice may be the only tomato product on the flat price basis; other products—catsup, paste, etc.—probably will be issued on the formula basis.

Remaining vegetables, for which 1943 price orders have not yet been issued: Planned on formula basis, permitting addition to 1942 ceilings of increased raw material and labor costs.

Asparagus: These prices were reported ready and waiting for signature; they provide for flat prices for graded asparagus, price formulas for blended.

Canned fruits: Will work on tentative formula with small committee during the week of May 2. Following that, hearings will be held the week of May 17 in San Francisco and Portland, and a final Washington conference after that.

Strawberries: Announcement of a price rise for cold pack and frozen strawberries was ready for release when the executive order was issued.

Quick-frozen fruits: An industry meeting was scheduled for April 15 to work out increases on a formula basis.

Baked beans: Committee meeting held April 12.

Quick-frozen vegetables: Those items that are being subsidized by the Commodity Credit Corporation for canning will be similarly subsidized for freezing; the others will receive an adjusted formula program.

On the part of canners, it was registered at the panel that the opposition to both regional pricing and grade labeling, expressed in the form of resolutions at the National Canners Association annual meeting last December at Chicago, is still in effect. Several canners spoke, pointing to the specific inequities imposed by regional flat prices.

Address by Jesse W. Tapp

Jesse W. Tapp, recently appointed Associate Administrator of the Food Production and Distribution Administration, addressed the April 10 luncheon session, emphasizing that production is the primary objective of the food administration, and expressing the hope that it will soon be possible to organize the program so that food producers may concentrate on that phase of the problem without the necessity of leaving their plants for repeated visits to Washington.

"I feel confident," he asserted, "that we can establish a line of cooperation within the War Food Administration itself, and between the other agencies interested in other aspects of your problem, so that we can try, at least, to minimize these problems that sometimes tend to complicate your job of concentrating on production."

An enjoyable feature of the luncheon on Saturday was a talk by Strickland Gillilan, whom many canners have heard speak at the annual convention or other Association meetings. "Strick" does not tag morals to stories he tells, but he does not tell a story without a meaning. As usual, his hearers were given a bit of sound philosophizing served with a laughter-provoking sauce.

The Manpower Discussion

The morning panel on pricing lasted longer than had been expected, with the result that the Panel Discussion on Rationing, originally scheduled, had to be omitted. The closing session of the meeting, therefore, was devoted to the problem of manpower, and the following speakers appeared: Lt. Col. Jay L. Taylor, Deputy Administrator, Food Production and Distribution Administration; Almon Roth, Alternate Industry Member, War Labor Board; Lt. Col. F. V. Keesling, Jr., National Headquarters, Selective Service System; Fay W. Hunter, Chief, Placement Bureau, Agricultural Division, War Manpower Commission; E. N. Richmond, Chairman, NCA Manpower Committee, and E. A. Meyer, Food Distribution Administration.

Lt. Col. Taylor reviewed the possible sources of available foreign labor—Mexican, Jamaican, Bahaman, Puerto Rican, Japanese evacuees, and workers from the Virgin Islands. He also stated that study is being made of the possibility of using prisoners of war.

Mr. Hunter discussed the methods by which procurement of this labor, as well as recruitment of domestic labor supplies through transfer from other fields, and utilization of migratory labor, may be made. He described the functions of WMC, USES, and other labor recruitment agencies. Recruitment of canning house labor, he stated, is a job of community mobilization, and is not subject to a broad national pattern.

Lt. Col. Keesling reminded canners of the change that has taken place in

public opinion since last year, with food production now placed in a more important light. Referring to the revised Selective Service occupational bulletin, he stated that it is in order for local draft boards to deviate from the deferments listed there when conditions warrant. "When an activity is not listed, but is important in food production, it should receive individual consideration of Selective Service boards," he said.

Mr. Roth stated that under Executive Order 9250, WLB has received 27,000 requests for wage increases, 90 per cent of which have come from employers. He remarked that employers and unions are joining hands in such requests. He stated that loopholes left in Order 9250 had permitted interference with stabilization, and for that reason the President had issued his second directive, known as the "hold-the-line" order, freezing wages as well as price ceilings. This second order takes from WLB every power in the wage field except that of correcting sub-standard living conditions or fitting wage problems into the Little Steel Formula. The April 8 order stopped action on all pending applications for wage increases before WLB, of which 200, Mr. Roth stated, were from canners. However, he pointed out, Economic Stabilization Director Byrnes still has the power to issue special directives.

Mr. Richmond outlined the work that the Association's Manpower Committee has carried on since its appointment last December. The Executive Order of April 8, he stated, makes uncertain what steps can be taken and what procedures may be required to obtain authorization for wage increases needed to ensure maximum production this year. Referring to the proposal that a directive be sought placing processing labor under the same control as farm labor, he pointed out that such a solution would prove satisfactory in some regions and unsatisfactory in others.

Mr. Meyer, in closing the manpower session, expressed confidence that Price Administrator Brown, Marvin Jones of Mr. Byrne's office, Food Administrator Davis and his assistants, Mr. Tapp and Col. Taylor, possess sympathy and understanding of the canners' desire to achieve production, and he urged that canners go ahead with the idea of packing a lot of merchandise during the 1943 season.

The Board adopted a resolution that OPA be requested to reward housewives working in canneries for their willingness to neglect home canning by permitting canners to issue certificates to female employees as to the number of hours worked during the canning season, and to instruct Ration Boards to issue additional ration coupons to such employees to the extent of 16 points for each eight hours that such employees worked, or on some other similar schedule that the OPA may deem reasonable.

Fertilizer for Citrus Growers

Citrus fruit growers, particularly in California, who have been accustomed to using such organic nitrogen materials as oilseed meals and tankage for fertilizer, and are now unable to obtain them because of local shortages, will be permitted to obtain straight chemical nitrogen materials through Amendment 3 to Food Production Order No. 5.

Requirements of citrus growers for straight chemical nitrogen may now be established at a rate per acre based upon the equivalent nitrogen content of the organic materials which they used in either the 1940-1941 or the 1941-1942 seasons. The application rate per acre, on a nitrogen equivalent basis, however, must not exceed that recommended by the State Agricultural Experiment Station for citrus crops.

The amendment also adds a 10-12-14 grade to the approved list for the State of Washington. This high-analysis grade will allow the efficient use of triple-superphosphate, which is available in that section of the country for mixing purposes, it was stated.

Special Loading Requirements

Special loading requirements for carload rail shipments of a list of miscellaneous perishable foods were announced April 15 by the Office of Defense Transportation.

The requirements are contained in Special Direction ODT 18, Revised-5, Amendment 1. Among products for which the requirements, effective immediately, are prescribed are: Apples, beets, cabbage, carrots, citrus fruit, cranberries, frozen commodities, oysters, peaches, potatoes, pears and pineapples.

Gerber, Sorensen Leave OPA

Dan F. Gerber of the Gerber Products Co., Fremont, Michigan, and Norman O. Sorensen of the Country Gardens, Inc., Gillett, Wisconsin, who have been serving with the Office of Price Administration, have resigned. At the time of their resignations, Mr. Gerber was acting chief of the processed food branch, and Mr. Sorensen was serving as his assistant.

GRADE LABELING REQUIREMENT IS HELD IN ABEYANCE

(Continued from page 7607)

fact that disturbs me is this: I believe it is about as difficult to effectuate price control under grade labeling as it is under the present system." He then reported to the subcommittee illustrations he had given to consumer representatives that had conferred with him.

"Peaches from Georgia and peaches from Michigan that are grade A," Mr. Brown said, "will sell for less in the Washington market and the New York market than will California peaches that are grade B. Why? Because of the freight situation * * *. The same is true of canned peas. I just feel that when a woman goes into the grocery store and sees grade B priced higher than grade A, it is going to complicate the situation in her mind."

Another reason to which Mr. Brown attributed his decision to hold grade labeling in abeyance was testimony presented before the House Committee on Agriculture by a canner witness. "When this gentleman from the canning industry appeared before the House Committee," Mr. Brown testified, "and stated that he was actually fearful of a considerable decline in production, I was affected by it, because production is the thing that we want to bring about."

In reply to questions raised by Representative Jerry Voorhis of California as to whether the same information that is available to wholesalers and retailers could be given in some manner to consumers, Mr. Brown suggested that the grade of canned foods might be carried on the invoice from the canner to the wholesaler and on to the retailer, so that the quality of the product could be ascertained by a retail customer from the grocer. Such a method, Mr. Brown said, had been discussed with two industry representatives and no objection had been voiced.

A question then was raised by Representative John B. Bennett of Michigan as to whether there was any discussion in connection with grade labeling regulation finally having the effect of abolishing trademarks. Mr. Brown said that he did not recall any such discussions.

"As a matter of fact," he was asked, "that is the effect of it?"

"That is a debatable question," Mr. Brown replied. "It would tend that way." I think Mrs. Brown would probably still like the brand of canned soup she has been using, he said. She would have better reliance on it. "But it certainly is arguable that the trade name, the value of the trade name, would be

diminished somewhat by a grade label," he concluded.

Following Mr. Brown's appearance, the subcommittee heard Dr. J. K. Galbraith, Deputy Administrator of OPA in charge of all price control. Dr. Galbraith was questioned as to the origin of the grade labeling requirement. In reply, he reviewed the price control of canned foods and stated that the question of requiring grading and labeling of canned foods was discussed at the time the emergency freeze order was placed in effect. At that time he said he entertained delegations of consumer groups. No representatives of the canning industry were present on that subject, he stated, in reply to a question by the subcommittee counsel, nor did he identify any one person as the originator of the grade labeling plan.

Dr. Galbraith testified that the specific dollars-and-cents, or "flat," pricing method of control was instituted to effectuate "firm price control." The former method was loose and produced many inequities, he said. As an adjunct of flat pricing, he explained, OPA took over the system of grades of USDA "upon which the armed services buy all of their canned products." These grades, Dr. Galbraith told the subcommittee, were the best grades available and were the grades into which the best technical skill has gone.

In response to questioning by the subcommittee chairman, Dr. Galbraith stated that if Congress should reject grade labeling he would consider such action as final. He was not willing to accept, as indicative of Congressional intent in formulating the Price Control Act, the fact that Congress had on former occasions failed to pass proposals requiring grade labeling.

Two days before Mr. Brown and Dr. Galbraith were called before the subcommittee, H. K. Bachelder, Fred A. Stare, and Walter L. Graefe had been asked to present testimony. Their testimony summarized the history of the grade labeling controversy and outlined the serious problems of production it would bring about at this time. Specifically, they challenged the necessity of grade labeling as a measure of price control, called to the attention of the subcommittee the fact that the industry was never actually consulted on the matter, and that OPA had failed to ascribe any real reasons for the issuance of the requirement.

The Smith Committee, under the general chairmanship of Representative Howard W. Smith of Virginia, was created by the House to look into alleged cases of government agencies exceeding their statutory or executive authority. Membership of the subcommittee studying complaints by canners and members of Congress that OPA had exceeded its authority and failed to comply with the law in issuing the grade labeling requirement, includes Representatives Hugh Peterson of Georgia, Chairman, Jerry Voorhis of California, and John B. Bennett of Michigan.

The complaints filed by canners and members of Congress, according to counsel for the subcommittee, are that MPR No. 306 violates the Price Control Act in that it operates to compel changes in business practices that are not necessary for price control; that OPA, so far as practicable, did not advise and consult with representatives of the industry; and that a sufficient statement of the considerations involved in the release of the order, with respect to grade labeling, was not issued.

They Give Their Lives . . . You Lend Your Money!

Use of Critical Material for Hand Trucks Is Restricted

The use of steel, iron, aluminum and other critical materials in the manufacture of hand trucks and related material-handling equipment was restricted by General Limitation Order L-111 as amended April 13 by the War Production Board.

The order covers trucks, lift trucks, dollies, trailers, etc. (not self propelled) which are used for transporting material in plants, warehouses, railroad depots, docks, and for similar purposes. The principal features of the amended order are:

1. Purchase orders for new hand trucks and related material-handling equipment or for new parts may be accepted only if they have preference ratings of AA-5 or higher. Repair parts are exempted from this provision but certification must be made that the parts will be used only for repair purposes.

2. The use of the following items and materials is prohibited in specified types of equipment, with certain exceptions in each case: Ball or roller bearings, cast steel wheels, iron and steel, copper and copper base alloy, aluminum, tin, cadmium, zinc, stainless or chrome steel, and metallic plating and finishes. Repair parts are exempt if parts conforming to these restrictions cannot be used on existing equipment.

3. Purchasers of equipment in which any of these restricted items (and rubber or rubber tires) are used must certify why the exceptions are applicable.

"Battle Stations For All"

The Office of War Information recently made public a handbook, "Battle Stations For All," explaining the Government's living-cost and anti-inflation program.

The booklet was prepared by OWI in cooperation with government agencies concerned with the program. It is based chiefly upon explanations of government policy by President Roosevelt, Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes, and the heads of the other agencies administering different parts of the program.

The publication discusses the consequences of failure in the fight to control living costs and prevent further inflation and emphasizes the need for:

1. Holding the present line with no further general wage increases beyond the "Little Steel" formula, except to correct gross inequities and plainly substandard wages, and no further general price increases except "to the limited extent allowed by law."

2. Sterner measures to draw off excess spending power, including higher taxes and some form of compulsory saving.

3. Guaranteeing people at least their minimum essentials of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and recreation.

Copies of "Battle Stations For All" may be obtained by writing the Division of Public Inquiries, Office of War Information, Washington, D. C.

"Today's Canned Foods"

"Today's Canned Foods" is the title of a new leaflet prepared by the staff of the Home Economics Division. It was written to answer many questions that come to the Division about the present conditions in the canning industry, such as the reasons for the shortages of canned foods in civilian markets and for the rationing program, the new kinds of metal containers that are coming into use and the need for tin salvage, the special rations developed for our armed forces, the nutritive value of canned foods, the aid to be obtained from careful reading of labels, the opportunity homemakers have to assist in a greater canned food production, and the way to make the best use of canned foods under present war-time conditions.

Copies are being sent to members of the Association and additional ones are available upon request.

New Restrictions Imposed On Frozen Food Paper Packages

New restrictions on the manufacture of paper boxes for packaging frozen foods are imposed by Order L-239, as amended April 15 by the War Production Board.

In addition, certain existing provisions of the order are tightened, while other provisions are relaxed or clarified.

Paperboard used in folding and setup boxes for packaging frozen foods must comply with specifications outlined in a technical table in the text of the order.

Other changes in the order follow:

1. Two additional grades of paperboard containing virgin wood pulp are permitted for boxes generally. The grades are colored box board chip back and mist color suit box chip back.

2. The restrictions on high-grade pulp liners are changed to cover liners made from certain types of waste paper in addition to liners made from virgin wood pulp. Such liners may be used in folding boxes only for packaging wet or oily foods or for packaging any other product found by WPB to require such liners. Application for such determination must be made by letter to the Containers Division, WPB. Previously, the restrictions applied only to liners made from virgin wood pulp, and there was no requirement of WPB determination as to the need for liners in connection with products other than wet or oily foods.

3. Boxes in process on January 8, the date L-239 was originally issued, may be completed at any time free of the restrictions of the order. Previously, they had to be completed within 90 days (by April 8) after issuance of the order.

4. Some inventories which were frozen on January 8 are released as follows:

(a) Paperboard grade restrictions do not apply to paperboard manufactured before January 8.
(b) Sheet-lining restrictions do not apply to board sheet lined before January 8.

"Pea Weevil Control"

Several measures can be followed to prevent the pea weevil from infesting green peas or to reduce infestations in peas grown for seed. Applications of rotenone dusts, cultural control, and clean-up measures are all of value in reducing losses from the pea weevil.

These measures are described in War Circular No. 6, entitled "Pea Weevil Control," published by the University of Idaho College of Agriculture. Copies are available upon request directed to the Association's Raw Products Bureau.

Fishing Restrictions Eased

Restrictions on night commercial fishing in the Indian River area and other inland waters of Florida have been lifted, and plans made for a re-examination of the Navy's ban on fishing at night off the coasts. This action followed conferences between officers of the Seventh Naval District and representatives of the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, held for the purpose of studying existing handicaps to full production of Florida shrimp, blue crab, oysters, sea crawfish, silver mullet, menhaden, and other species.

Fresh Fruit Meetings Called

A series of six meetings with representatives of the fresh fruit trade to discuss proposed price ceilings on these commodities were announced April 14 by the Office of Price Administration.

The meetings, to be held by OPA in conjunction with the War Food Administration, are scheduled as follows: April 27, Sacramento, Calif.; April 28, Medford, Ore.; April 29, Yakima, Wash.; May 11, Raleigh, N. C.; May 13, Albany, N. Y.; and May 14, Chicago, Ill.

To Increase 1943 Raisin Output

Increased requirements for dried fruits to meet military, civilian, and Lend-lease needs necessitate the highest possible 1943 production of raisins, and in order to attain this objective the Food Production and Distribution Administration recently announced that it will be necessary to revise Food Distribution Order 17 to provide that all raisin-variety grapes produced in eight California counties, except those covered by canning contracts approved by the Administration, be diverted into raisins. The eight counties, which comprise the raisin-producing area, are Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Merced, Madera, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin.

The Administration stated that in consultation with the industry it will develop an assistance program including provision for the necessary picking boxes, drying trays, and dehydration facilities, prices to be paid producers, and protection against loss to producers after the grapes are placed on trays.

Pacific Coast production of apricots is expected to be low because of unfavorable weather, the Administration stated, and with requirements for dried fruits even larger than heretofore anticipated, a maximum production of raisins and other dried fruits will be necessary.

WPB Encouraging Full Use Of Idle Second-hand Motors

The War Production Board is doing its utmost to locate every idle electric motor and generator and get it back into active service, John Gammell, Chief of WPB's Electrical Equipment Branch, said in a recent statement calling upon industry to cooperate with the Division by listing idle motors and making full use of its services in obtaining second-hand equipment.

Restrictions on purchase orders for new motors and generators imposed by General Conservation Order L-221 as amended January 15, Mr. Gammell pointed out, are designed to insure full use of second-hand equipment. A purchase order for new motors or generators must have a preference rating of AA-5 or higher and the prospective buyer must certify that he has made every reasonable effort—

1. to adapt idle motors or generators in his possession to the purpose for which new ones are sought;
2. to obtain used equipment from other sources;
3. to repair or recondition his existing equipment.

"To assist industry in locating idle motors and generators," he stated, "the General Industrial Equipment Division has set up a Used Motor Unit in its Electrical Equipment Branch. The Unit has a file of about 30,000 used motors and generators including those listed by motor dealers with the OPA and those available in industrial plants. This file, which covers the entire country, is compiled from data received from the WPB field offices and directly from dealers and industrial plants.

Fresh Vegetable Ceilings

Retail ceilings for seven fresh vegetables, which were brought under price control for the first time early in March, will be established, beginning April 22, through the use of uniform mark-ups over the retailer's net cost, the Office of Price Administration announced April 15.

The vegetables are cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peas, snap beans, spinach and tomatoes.

For each vegetable except cabbage, the retailer will determine his ceilings by multiplying his net cost by 1.39. On cabbage, where spoilage is greater, the mark-up is 1.65 for independent retailers having an annual volume of $250,000 or less; 1.54 for chain retailers with an annual volume under $250,000, and 1.50 for any retailer with an annual volume over $250,000.